



The Linux Effect: 20th Anniversary

Linux - Distros, dogs and the UNIX family

BLAINE:

Linux like the pet dog comes in many breeds, known as distributions or distros. In the same way that all dogs are descended from wolves [*SFX:Wolf howls*] all distros are descended from Gnu/Linux and the different types are bred with different owners in mind. Take Ubuntu here...here boy..here....

Ubuntu is the most popular distro for home PCs.

Andrew Smith:

"A friendly Labrador could be considered to be Ubuntu, I don't know if that an insult or not"

"It's a trusted operating system and you know that if you install it on an ordinary desktop computer it will work and its reliable and it won't bite the children. "

BLAINE:

Woah boy! This distro on the other hand is Red Hat, he is an enterprise server, like a German shepherd , a working dog. Big business deploys Red Hat to every corner of the globe.

Andrew Smith: "The Red Hat operating system can be trusted with large scale problems, trusted with looking after your files and is generally reliable and you know it will not bite your sheep..."

Andrew Smith:

"... Android is set up to work on a much tighter structure in a much small system"

BLAINE:

Ummm... a Chihuahua perhaps?

Andrew Smith:

"It's got all the same feature in your pocket as you would expect on a desktop computer, she's another derivate from Linux.

BLAINE:

There are thousands of Linux distros in use around the world. All are the result of team work, disparate scattered collaboration. If it all sounds a little anarchic...well it is...but it works.

Jon 'maddog' Hall. "The fact that there are so many distributions looks to some people looks rather chaotic"

BLAINE:

Jon 'maddog' Hall

Jon 'maddog' Hall:

"I don't think it is chaotic I think it shows diversity. Part of this diversity is the fact that you don't have to use all of a particular software package. By using part of free software instead of having to write my own code I'm gonna use just a little bit of code to glue all this stuff together. So there's all these different distributions and this is a kind of divine evolution and I think this is the opposite of chaos in reality.

Working with free software doesn't mean that you can't make money. Mark Shuttleworth, Ubuntu's creator has made a fortune from his family friendly form of Linux. So lucrative is the enterprise that Mark was able to pay twenty million dollars for an eight day stay on the international space station. Linux can take you far.

Allison Randal: "Ubuntu comes from a word in African Bantu language and it means the character of humanity. So Ununtu was really inspired by the idea that free software is beautiful because individual human beings get together and contribute for the benefit of millions of others human beings."

BLAINE:

Technical Architect of Ubuntu, Allison Randal.

Allison Randal:

"Were giving the software for free but there are plenty of other things that people will need or want around the software. Some businesses offer technical support and further support services, some create or sell other software maybe games or photo editing – software that runs on top of Linux. Some sell computers with Linus already installed and lots of other products that you buy everyday run Linux inside like mobile phones or tablets, or the personal video recorder for your TV.

BLAINE:

Ubuntu, Redhat and the rest are all true Linux systems, all descended from that original wolf, GNU/Linux. But it worth remembering before everything else came UNIX.

Andrew Smith: "Apple operating system is another derivative of the UNIX paradigm so anybody that uses Linux or has learnt to become a technical expert with Linux can easily go under the hood with an Apple operating system or under the hood of other UNIX based operating systems as well. So it's a highly transferable skill.

Linux can take you far, it can be your best friend and maybe even get you into space.
Good Linux!